

Knoxville Pickleball

Celebrating our past
& shaping the future



Monday, June 12, 2017



Timeline of Pickleball Growth in Knoxville

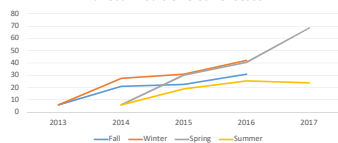
- 9/9/2013 – First Open Pickleball offering at Deane Hill
- Winter 2013-14 – First facility with permanent lines on the courts (not tape)
- 11/6/2014 – First offering at SKCC
- 9/13/2015 – West Hills Courts opened
- November 2015 – West Hills Courts Named TRPA Award
- April 2016 – First tournament at West Hills Park
- Fall 2016 – Sam Duff Park courts opened
- Current courts available
 - 2 parks with 10 outdoor courts (6 at West Hills, 4 at Sam Duff)
 - 9 centers with 22 indoor courts (3 at DH, CE, CW, SKCC, MR, CB and 1 at RL, IN, WH, Lons)



Open Pickleball Offerings in Past Numbers of Scheduled Hours Per Week

| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Spring (Mar-May) | - | 6 | 30 | 40.5 | 68.5 |
| Summer (June-Aug) | - | 6 | 19 | 25.5 | 24 |
| Fall (Sept-Oct) | 6 | 27.5 | 31 | 42 | |
| Winter (Oct-Feb) | 6 | 21 | 22.5 | 31+ | |

Pickleball Hours Offered Per Season



Why charge fees?

- Growth & interest have created the need for level-based play
- Consistent complaints (from players of all levels) regarding Open Pickleball Play which has created a need for a compromise that serves players of all levels



Why charge fees?

- Our Department is committed to the growth of pickleball
- What we have done (and continue to provide)
 - Addition of pickleball lines to Recreation Center floors
 - Availability of equipment at indoor sites (nets, balls, paddles)
 - Conversion tennis courts to permanent pickleball courts
 - Staff expense incurred for offerings outside normal hours (SKCC all year, DH in summer)
 - If include staff time and overtime for tournaments, events would have lost money
 - Shifted normal hours at some sites so they can offer pickleball



Why charge fees?

- Our staff understands the needs and are therefore committed to offering pickleball during day and evenings
 - During winter, most other programs are canceled during basketball season
 - During summer, all other programs are not held unless pay for gym use
 - Offering pickleball at SKCC was a result of their being no other location for evening indoor pickleball (not offered for open basketball, open volleyball, or other groups)
 - Staff is typically involved, engaged, and participating in open pickleball in some way (which is not the case with most other open gym offerings)
 - Staff offers instruction to new players in attendance, connects to others who can teach rules, skills, etc.
 - Need of future trainings and play implementation (skills challenge, working with Paul Slay, etc.)



What are the BENEFITS of paying fees?

- Revenue generated can be spent toward future pickleball-related expenses and staff expenses for open play outside normal hours (SKCC)!
- Pickleball community data!
 - Number of “members” and revenue from offerings speaks volumes
- Continued support and efforts in offerings provided!
 - Support and gym availability for open play, leagues, events, tournaments
 - Typically, other programs offered with poor attendance are not offered in future
 - Participation at some sites has been poor (CW, CE, CB, MR)



Annual Memberships



| Membership Begins | Fee | Cost per Month |
|-------------------------|------|----------------|
| July 1 st | \$80 | \$6.66/month |
| October 1 st | \$70 | \$7.77/month |
| January 1 st | \$50 | \$8.33/month |
| April 1 st | \$30 | \$10/month |

\$40 Non-City Resident Fee

Available beginning July 1st.

Good from date purchased through June 30th

\$100 fine and 3 month suspension from open indoor pickleball if address is falsified

Member Benefits

- No daily fee for open pickleball!
- Discounted pricing for events, leagues, block times, gym rentals!
- Tournament fee (no additional fee for playing multiple events)!
- Name, contact information, level/rating on KPRD Pickleball Website (in case someone looking for others to join a block time)!
- Receive periodic e-newsletters with pickleball information!



Details of relationship with other adult groups who use Recreation Centers

- Basketball
 - Leagues offered in summer and winter on various nights (\$350 per team for 8 games and additional fee for tournament)
 - Open gym offered in fall and spring during normal hours of 1pm-9pm based on gym availability and history of successful times with adults & teens
 - After youth rec season in winter, youth teams (AAU) may rent gyms for time in spring during normal hours and after hours
 - No summer use unless pay rental fees | winter use only during the day at few sites
- Volleyball
 - Leagues offered seasonally (4 per year) with offerings on Tues & Sun nights (\$180 per team for 8 games and single-elimination tournament)
 - Open Volleyball – typically offered 1 night per week at 1-2 gyms in spring (April-May) & fall (September-October)
 - No summer use unless pay rental fees

Similarities to Caswell Park

- \$1 at the gate for those over 14 years old (players, spectators, etc.)
- Fee introduced when park was opened around 2000 as park offers additional amenities and offerings compared to other adult leagues we offer and others in the area (as we provide more for pickleball than other sports groups)



Moving Forward

- Open Pickleball Play Opportunities
- Instruction for Beginners
- Special Events / Theme Nights
- Leagues / Block Times
- Tournaments

“If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.” —Henry Ford

“You don’t have to have it all figured out to move forward...just take the next step.” —unknown



Open Pickleball

- Difficult for City to say “you can’t play” based on level of play
- Should we cap how many can attend? Cut it off at 20 players per session?
- Could offer times based on level of play
 - Beginners (3.0 and below)
 - Intermediate (3.0-4.0)
 - Advanced (4.5+)
 - (but does everyone know what this means?)
 - (what would happen if a beginner came to advanced?)



Beginner Instruction

- First time free for beginners
- Create a “Welcome to Knoxville Pickleball” document



Special Events / Theme Nights

- For example:
 - New Years Eve, Halloween, 4th of July, Costume Night, etc.
- Extra cost with discount for Members
 - For example: \$5 for non-members, \$3 for members



Leagues / Block Times / Gym Rentals

- Use of Rec Center or Outdoor Courts for an exclusive group for a period of time. Subject to court availability.
- Price would vary based on various factors such as outdoor or indoor (during normal hours or outside normal hours) courts, number of courts at facility, etc.
- Definitions
 - Leagues – Multiple week offering by KPRD based on Type & Skill Level
 - (For example, Men Doubles 4.0+ on Tuesday nights at MR 6pm-7:30pm)
 - Block Times – Multiple week offering organized by individual or group who determines who participates, format, etc.
 - Gym Rentals – Small group who rents gym space outside normal hours for an hourly rate. Members receive discounted rate depending on number of courts at gym (1 or 3)



Example of Block Times / Leagues

For example, a group of 12+ people want to play every week at a Rec Center for 6 weeks on Friday nights from 6pm-7:30pm. This would allow a group to invite others to fill their group. If player can't attend, player or organizer would need to find sub for week.

Total fee for 6 week block time outside normal hours on 3 courts

Cost per person (if 12 people)

90 minute time slot - \$24 for member, \$30 for non-member

Per week: \$4/member, \$5/non-member

6 wks @ 90 mins = 540 mins = 9 hours = \$2.67/hr for members

2 hour time slot - \$28 for member, \$35 for non-member

NOTE: Rates for block times/leagues during normal hours would be less

- Normal outside normal hours rental rate is \$70/hour (2 hour minimum)

- 6 weeks would be \$420
- 6 weeks at \$24 per person = \$288 (savings of \$132 or \$11/person)
- 6 weeks at \$28 per person = \$336 (savings of \$84 or \$7/person)

Rental Rates

- 3 court site = \$30/hr (2 hour minimum)
- 1 court site = \$25/hr (2 hour minimum)



Tournaments

- Currently, spring & fall
- Potential to offer indoor tournament(s) and use multiple gyms and divide by divisions, number of matches, etc.
- Entry fees \$30, for example
 - Fee likely higher for indoor tournaments
 - In future, will move to something like:
 - \$30 + \$5 per additional event (members – no additional fee)



Future Plans / Future Needs



- Support at additional sites
 - DH & SKCC have a strong following. More potential opportunities if begin to use other sites
 - Inskip Park (4204 Bruhin Road) – 3 tennis courts – adding pickleball lines to 2 of 3
 - Pickleball Courts with Lights
 - Tyson Park will have pickleball lines on 3 tennis courts with lights in coming months (Courts 1,2,3)
 - Same fees as tennis will apply
 - \$5 per court for 90 minutes (if others waiting) (or \$10 if reserving court in advance)
- (NOTE – Will discuss special rates for “Members” for court time, leagues, tournaments with tennis contractor)
- Development of Pickleball Committee who can represent the pickleball community (all levels of play)
 - Provide feedback on what’s working and what’s not
 - Solicit volunteers for tournaments and events

Pickleball Code of Conduct



By reading the following information, I acknowledge and agree to abide by the following code of conduct for all Pickleball opportunities offered through the City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department.

1. I understand that the City of Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department provides a safe and secure environment for all players. I agree to follow the rules of the game and to play safely. I will not use profanity or abusive language. I will not use profanity or abusive language. I will not use profanity or abusive language.
2. I will not engage in conduct that poses a serious risk of injury to myself or others, including but not limited to inappropriate body contact, the use of profanity or abusive language, or that poses a serious risk of injury to myself or others.
3. I understand that if I engage in conduct that poses a serious risk of injury to myself or others, I will be suspended from the game and may be suspended from future games.
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6. I understand that if I engage in conduct that poses a serious risk of injury to myself or others, I will be suspended from the game and may be suspended from future games.
7. In the event the City of Knoxville issues a suspension for any player, I will accept the suspension and will not engage in any further play.
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15. I will accept responsibility for guests and family members in attendance at events and/or open play opportunities.
16. I agree to wear safe and proper attire when playing. I understand that if I do not have the appropriate clothing or footwear, I will be asked to leave.
17. I will observe the Golden Rule of doing unto others as I would have them do unto me. (GOLDEN RULE)

Please initial and sign to the following:

I have read, understood and agree to abide by the City of Knoxville Pickleball Program "Code of Conduct".

If at any point I have any questions concerning what is expected of me, I will communicate with Recreation Center Staff to obtain the information I need. I understand that violation of the Code of Conduct could consequently result in a warning. However, more severe, repetitive cases may result in suspension or permanent ban from play.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Comments Feedback Questions & Answers

